

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, as manifested in the Official Action mailed June 22, 2000, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and revised to correct obvious syntax errors. No new matter is added.

Claims 1 and 5-7 are in the application. Claims 2-4 have been deleted and rewritten in form of new claims 5-7 to place these claims in condition for allowance, not to distinguish over the cited art of record.

The Examiner indicates that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have deleted and rewritten claim 2 in independent form of claim 5 to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 have also been deleted and rewritten as claims 6 and 7 to reflect their dependency on new base claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-7 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable decision is courteously solicited.

Claim 1 stands erroneously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kameyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,595,619).

Claim 1 is directed to a method of driving a surface discharge plasma display panel having two substrates facing each other with common electrodes, scan electrodes, and address electrodes arranged between the two substrates. According to the method of the invention, in a resetting step, a first voltage is applied between the scan electrodes and the address electrodes to accumulate wall charges in the respective pixel by a facing discharge, and removing the wall-charges accumulated by the facing discharge. Next, in an addressing step of the method, a second voltage is applied between a corresponding scan electrodes and selected address electrodes so that a facing discharge occurs, to form wall-charges in the selected pixels. Finally, in a sustained discharging step, a third alternating-current voltage is applied between the scan electrodes and the common electrodes so that a surface discharge occurs in the selected pixels.

The method of the invention is characterized in that the wall charges to be removed are accumulated by the facing discharge in the resetting step. Accordingly, light of relatively low brightness is emitted from the pixels unselected in each sub-field, to thereby increase the contrast of the display screen. Also there are residual wall charges on only the address electrodes after the resetting step, and hence, the voltage applied in the address interval can be lowered.

Kameyama discloses a display for performing gray-scale display according to a sub-field method, a display panel unit constituting the display, and a display signal generator that is incorporated in the main unit for supplying display signals to the display panel unit. The object of Kameyama is to minimize the frame memory area in a display for performing gray-scale display according to a sub-field method. See col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 57-59 of Kameyama.

Thus, Kameyama does not address the problem of this invention, that is a driving method of a surface discharge plasma display panel for emitting the light of relatively low brightness from the pixels unselected in each sub-field. Rather, Kameyama discusses the use of other driving methods which are described in conjunction with Figs. 5, 13 and 16 of Kameyama.

The driving method of Fig. 5 of Kameyama, erroneously cited by the Examiner, is exactly the same as the conventional driving method which is criticized in the "Background Art" of the present application. This is made noticeable by evident resemblance between Fig. 3 (Prior Art) of the present application and Fig. 5 of Kameyama. More particularly, the driving method of Fig. 5 of Kameyama includes a reset step during which all the Y electrodes are reset to the level of 0 V, and a whole screen writing pulse of  $V_s + V_w$  is applied to the X electrodes. See col. 6 lines 41-44 of Kameyama. The same step is discussed in the "Background Art", on

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page 2, lines 10-12 with reference to Fig. 3 of the present application. This conventional method has a drawback of decreasing the contrast of a display screen, and is clearly distinguished from the method of the invention.

On the other hand, the driving method of Figs. 13 and 16 of Kameyama does not include, at least, "a resetting step of applying a first voltage between the scan electrodes and the address electrodes to accumulate wall charges in the respective pixel by a facing discharge, and removing the wall-charges accumulated by the facing discharge", as recited in claim 1. Moreover, since Figs. 13 and 16 and their respective discussion in Kameyama fail to disclose any reset step, it appears that a reset step is omitted from, or the conventional reset step is used in, the driving method of Figs. 13 and 16 of Kameyama. See also col. 10, line 67 through col. 11, line 3 of Kameyama. Therefore, Kameyama does not disclose all limitations of claim 1, and does not anticipate claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection as to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

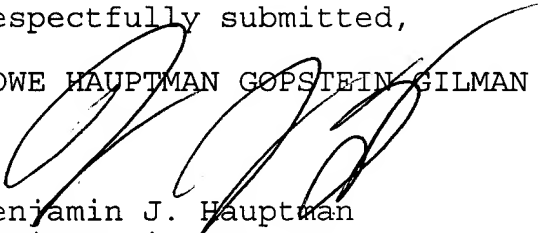
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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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